

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A hybrid interface for handling different types of data streams is disclosed. Both OC192 and OC768 data streams can be transported between terrestrial and submarine systems using hybrid interfaces. Examples include processing branches that use common FEC units, multiplexers, demultiplexers, transmitters and receivers for both types of data streams. WDM channels are allocated in groups for OC768 data stream handling. Time misalignment between received channels within a group is identified and compensated.